

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 EUR-08 L-01

IO-03 PRS-01 PM-03 SP-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00 /050 W

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P R 291050Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6451

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBSSY CAIRO

AMEMBSSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBSSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2536

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, FR

SUBJECT: ALLON VISIT TO FRANCE

1. IN APRIL 28 DISCUSSION WITH MFA OFFICIAL (SHAMIR)
ABOUT ALLON'S VISIT TO FRANCE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ISRAELIS DO NOT
EXPECT VISIT TO BE OF GREAT SUBSTANTIVE SIGNIFICANCE. ISRAELIS
DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN MOVE FRENCH AWAY FROM " PRO-ARAB"
POSITION IN SHORT RUN. SHAMIR POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE NO
IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN ISRAELI-FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND
MFA IS REASONABLY PLEASED WITH WAY EC-9 HANDLED AGREEMENT WITH
ISRAEL. MAIN FOCUS OF OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS, SHAMIR THOUGHT,
WOULD REVOLVE AROUND FRENCH SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN GENEVA
ROLE AND POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES
OF ANY ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT (BOTH THEMES THAT DON'T AROUSE
MUCH ENTHUSIASM HERE).

2. THOUGH NOT EXPECTING TOO MUCH FROM FRENCH VISIT, ALLON
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HAS MADE POINT TO US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT MAJOR BENEFIT
OF VISIT FROM ISRAELI POLICY POINT OF VIEW WILL COME FROM HIS
MEDIA EXPOSURE AND MEETINGS WITH FRIENDS OF ISRAEL
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FRENCH JEWISH COMMUNITY.

ALLON BELIEVES THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN FRANCE, AS WELL AS IN
OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IS HEAVILY PRO-ISRAEL
AND HE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTS A "POPULAR" SUCCESS RATHER THAN AN
"OFFICIAL" SUCCESS. HE WITH THE HOPE THAT OVER A PERIOD OF
TIME PRO-ISRAELI OPINION WILL HELP CHANGE THE ATTITUDES OF THE FRENCH
(AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN) GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS A MORE FAVORABLE
POSITION FROM ISRAEL'S POINT OF VIEW.

3. WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER ALLON'S HOPES HAVE
SUBSTANCE OR ARE MERELY WISHFUL THINKING, ALTHOUGH WE ARE
INCLINED TOWARD SKEPTICISM.
WE WILL READ WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST EMBASSY PARIS' EVALUATION
OF THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE VISIT.
VELIOTES

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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AMMAN
BEIRUT
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AMEMBSSY DAMASCUS
JERUSALEM

AMEMBSSY LONDON

MOSCOW

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